Vacant posts of Judges in High Courts

172. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of vacant posts of Judges in High Courts, State-wise;

(b) what steps are being taken to fill up these vacancies;

(c) what are the reasons for delay in filling up these vacancies; and

(d) whether it is a fact that pendency of cases are caused due to shortage of Judges and if so, what is the total number of cases pending in these courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) the requisite information is given in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) In accordance with the procedure for appointment of Judges of High Courts, the Cheif Justice is expected to initiate recommendation for filling up vacancies in Consultation with the Collegium of Judges. On the part of the Government of India, Chief Justices of the High Courts are periodically requested to initiate proposals for appointment of judges in respective High Courts. The procedure for appointments involves consultations among several Constituational authorities.

(d) Pendency of cases is due to various complex factors such as inadequate strength of Judges, increased institution of cases, rise in population, radical change in the pattern of litigation, awareness of rights on the part of the citizens etc.

According to information furnished by the Registry of High Courts, the number of cases pending as on December 31, 1998, in all High Courts, except Gauhati High Court, was 31,62,880. In the Gauhati High Court as on September 30, 1998, the number of pending cases was 35,667.

Statement

Vacant Posts of Judges in High Courts.

Position as on 20.11.1999

S.No.	Name of High Court	No. of vacant posts of Judges
1.	Allahabad	9
2.	Andhra Pradesh	6
3.	Bombay	15
4.	Calcutta	18
5.	Delhi	4
6.	Gauhati	2
7.	Gujarat	3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3
10.	Karnataka	6
11.	Kerala	6
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4
13.	Madras	12
14.	Orissa	2
15.	Patna	6
16.	Punjab & Haryana	10
17.	Rajasthan	12
18.	Sikkim	1
	TOTAL	121